THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways, in association with the International Union of Railways (UIC) organised a User-Producer interaction programme in New Delhi on the subject "Improved Maintenance Practices and Reducing Life Cycle Cost—A common challenge for Railway Operators and Manufacturers. The programme was organised over 3 days from January 30 to February 1, 2002. It was attended by 154 Indian and Foreign delegates representing various Railways and Industries. These included 39 foreign delegates representing France, U.K., Japan, Holland, Germany, Austria, Australia, Iran, Italy, Switzerland, South Africa and Belgium.

The Seminar was an effort to establish an interface between the Railway operators and industries in the rail sector, with a view to devising strategies for reducing maintenance costs of railway infrastructure, taking advantage of new technological developments. The conference was very successful in focussing attention on the issues involved.

Collection of Railway dues from SEB's

1033. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total dues to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on 31st January, 2002; Zone-wise, State-wise;

(b) the details of the dues pending for more than two years; Zone-wise, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to collect dues from the SEBs and from the Central Power Companies;

(d) whether the Railways propose to set up its own generating units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Statement I is enolosed (*See* below)

(b) Statement II is enclosed *(See* below)

(c) The steps taken to collect dues from the SEBs and from the Central Power Companies include:—

(1) State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of 'Prepayment of Freight' as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials including Chairmen of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.

(2) Pursuant to Government's decision on 7.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 144.90 crore has been received till date.

(3) Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills of some of the State Electricity Boards.

(4) The Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance, Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments at various levels including that of Minister of Railways, urging early steps for clearance of the dues.

(5) Ministry of Power had set up an Expert Group regarding settlement of SEB dues.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 18.02.2002 between the Ministry of Railways and National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) for setting up of joint venture power projects. As per MoU, a project committee consisting of officials from Ministry of Railways and NTPC shall be constituted to prepare the techno-economic feasibility study report. On the basis of the report, appropriate action would be initiated.

Statement-I

Details of total dues (approximate) to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on 31.01.2002, Zone wise and State wise

(Figures in Crores of Rs.)

S. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/ P.H.	Jan.02 (Approx.)	CR	ER	NR	NER	NFR	SR	SCR	SER	WR
1	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	2.02							1.20	0.82	
2	Assam State Electricity Board	2.14					2.14				
3	Bihar State Electricity Board	10.48		8.41		2.07					
4	Delhi Vidyut Board		160.61		160.61						
5	Gujarat State Electricity Board	37.32									37.32
6	Haryana State Electricity Board	18.03	3.23		14.80						
7	Karnataka State Electricity Board	1.75							1.75		
8	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	16.55	5.76						3.13	7.66	
9	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	14.78	9.25							5.53	
10	Punjab State Electricity Board	320.66			320.66						
11	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	80.82			79.63						1.19
12	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	2.32						2.32		0.00	
13	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	73.65	15.07	55.67	2.91						
14	West Bengal State Electricity Board	41.14		4.72						36.42	
15	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	997.96			997.96						
16	National Thermal Power Corporation	62.43		5.06	52.93				4.40	0.04	
17	Damodar Valley Corporation	9.16		9.16							
18	Private Power House—Sabarmati	1.40									1.40
	TOTAL	1853.22	33.31	83.02	1629.50	2.07	2.14	2.32	10.48	50.47	39.91

Note—Approximate position has been indicated as the actual accounts for January 2002 are yet to be finalised.

STATEMENT-II

Details of the dues pending for more than two years; Zone-wise and State-wise

(Figures in Crores of Rs.)

S. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/ P.H.	Jan.02	CR	ER	NR	NER	NFR	SR	SCR	SER	WR
1	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	0.28							0.08	0.20	
2	Assam State Electricity Board	0.00					0.00				
3	Bihar State Electricity Board	0.02		0.02		0.00					
4	Delhi Vidyut Board*	0.00									
5	Gujarat State Electricity Board	8.98									8.98
6	Haryana State Electricity Board	0.00									
7	Karnataka State Electricity Board	1.07							1.07		
8	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	0.00									
9	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	0.00									
10	Punjab State Electricity Board	0.00									
11	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	0.00									
12	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	0.00						0.00			
13	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	5.60		5.60							
14	West Bengal State Electricity Board	1.32		1.17						0.15	
15	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	956.00			956.00						
16	National Thermal Power Corporation	0.76		0.76							
17	Damodar Valley Corporation	2.08		2.08							
18	Private Power House—Sabarmati	0.00									
	TOTAL	976.11	0.00	9.63	956.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.15	0.35	8.98

*Note:—An amount of Rs. 0.07 lakh is outstanding against Delhi Vidyut Board which is more than two year old.